

Johnny Rivers, Among First To Give Life

Boys Club Program Of Physical Fitness Carried on Here

One of the first U. S. Marines to give his life for his country was Johnny Rivers, a hero of Guadalcanal, and who, prior to joining the combat forces, was an active member of the Boys Club of Bethlehem, an organization that furnished more than 500 fighting men for Uncle Sam.

Shortly after this country became involved in war, the Boys Club adopted a physical fitness program and has since strictly adhered to that policy.

In the club's victory program, the purpose is to develop projects and programs related to national and home defense, and to offer their facilities, staff and membership to all national agencies engaged in defense or disaster work.

While the present and former members were giving their all on fighting fronts throughout the world, those on the home front, under the guidance of Vincent F. Brugger, executive director, were actively engaged in aiding the country's defense effort.

The clubhouse on East Fourth Street was for a time used as a casualty station. Contingents completed courses in first aid work under the supervision of Mr. Brugger. The club encouraged young men to join the armed forces and also the United States Maritime Service.

The members collected tons of rubber and metal scrap, essential to the war effort. They participated in and contributed to the campaign inaugurated by the Boys Clubs of America to purchase a "jeep" and in the nationwide drive of the national organization for the purchase of a "Doughnut Wagon."

In conjunction with the above activities, the club members aided in the sale of war stamps and bonds; distributed Community and War Fund posters; prepared and forwarded scrap books to servicemen, and the officers and members of the board of directors kept in touch with the boys on the fighting fronts.

In the program of the past two years, the officers stressed the importance of physical fitness and the learning of hand skills, important in mechanized warfare, as well as urging the youth of this city to follow the principles of democracy.

During the past Summer, the club maintained a sizeable Victory Garden at Camp Mohican, Delaware, N. J., succeeding in raising an appreciable crop of vegetables.